

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13, 15-19, 23-25, and 28-31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 5, 14, 20-22, 26, 27, and 32 have been amended. Consequently, claims 2, 5, 14, 20-22, 26, 27, and 32 are currently pending and under consideration.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 5, 14, 20-22, 26, 27, and 32 contained allowable subject matter in item 10.

Dependent claims 2, 5, 14, 20, 26, and 32 have been rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim as currently amended claims 2, 5, 14, 20, 26, and 32, respectively. It is therefore believed that independent claims 2, 5, 14, 20, 26, and 32 and dependent claims 21, 22, and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Specification Objections

The informalities noted in item 1 of the Office Action have been corrected.

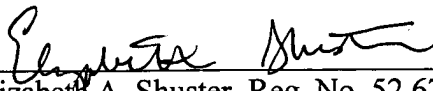
Claims Objections

In item 2 of the Office Action, it was required that previous claims 30-33 be renumbered because claim reference number 29 was inadvertently omitted. In view of this, claims 30-33 have been renumbered as claims 29-32; however, claims 29-31 have been canceled. Claim 32 will be referenced in the present response based on the new claim number.

Additional Comments

In the returned SB/08, the Examiner crossed off the two non-patent literature documents for being non-compliant and for illegible copies. Applicants submit concurrent with this Response a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the missing data included for one of the non-patent literature documents and include clean copies.

Respectfully submitted,

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